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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DLOS-09 L-03 OES-07
INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /088 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON/NH
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
IO:GHELLMAN (DRAFT)
----------280202Z 102755 /63
O 280110Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
EUCOM
SECDEF
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123917

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, ENRG, TS, OY, IT

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN LIBYAN SHELF DISPUTE: GUIDANCE ON
FUTURE U.S. ACTION

REF: (A) TUNIS 3758

1. U.S. SUPPORT FOR TUNISIA AT UN: IN REPLY TO REFTEL,
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YOU ARE CORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT WE HAVE NOT CHANGED OUR
POSITION AS OUTLINED IN STATE 72492. OUR ANALYSIS OF PRO-
SPECTS FOR TUNISIAN COMPLAINT IN SECURITY COUNCIL ALSO
REMAIN ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED, THOUGH ROTATION OF PRESIDENCY
TO CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON JUNE 1 COULD HELP ASSURE
NEUTRALITY OF THAT OFFICE IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH
ARE A KEY ELEMENT IN WORKING OUT SECURITY COUNCIL DECISIONS.

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2. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD TELL NOUIRA THAT WE WOULD HOPE THAT TUNISIA COULD DEFER A DECISION ON RECOURSE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL PENDING THE OUTCOME OF FURTHER EFFORTS TO INDUCE THE AMERICAN FIRM TO WITHDRAW SHIP. IN THIS REGARD, TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR HEDDA APPRISED US LATE ON MAY 27 THAT GOT HAS NOW BEEN IN CONTACT WITH CAPTAIN OF J. W. BATES, AND HAS DEMANDED THAT SHIP DEPART IMMEDIATELY FROM WATERS CLAIMED BY TUNISIA. SHIP CAPTAIN IS SAID TO HAVE REQUESTED

24 HOURS DELAY IN ORDER TO CONSULT WITH HIS HEADQUARTERS. ON U.S. END, CONTACTS WITH SENATOR BARTLETT OF OKLAHOMA HAVE LED TO SCHEDULING OF MEETING WITH EXECUTIVES OF READING AND BATES AT 1600 HOURS ON TUESDAY, MAY 31, IN TULSA. SENATOR BELLMON (WHO IS ALREADY IN OKLAHOMA), AMBASSADOR HEDDA, AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES ALSO WILL BE PRESENT. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT MEETING WILL RESULT IN FULLER APPRECIATION BY U.S. FIRM OF ALL FACTORS INVOLVED. YOU SHOULD IMPRESS ON NOUIRA THAT WE HOPE THAT GOT WILL TAKE NO PRECIPITATE ACTION WHICH COULD IMPACT ADVERSELY ON OUR CURRENT EFFORTS TO DEFUSE SITUATION. FOR EXAMPLE, ANY TUNISIAN ACTION AGAINST THE SHIP PRIOR TO TUESDAY'S MEETING WOULD RUN SERIOUS RISK OF ALIENATING TWO IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE SENATE WHO HAVE ARRANGED MEETING WITH COMPANY IN HOPE OF FINDING SATISFACTORY SOLU-
TION.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL NOUIRA THAT IF FURTHER EFFORTS WITH U.S. FIRM FAIL;
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-- U.S. WILL SUPPORT INSCRIPTION SHOULD TUNISIA DECIDE TO TAKE ISSUE TO SECURITY COUNCIL.

-- AS FOR WHAT MIGHT BE EXPECTED FROM THE SC, WE WILL CERTAINLY COOPERATE IN ANY EFFORT TO REDUCE TENSION AND ENCOURAGE PEACEFUL MEANS OF SETTLING THE DISPUTE.

4. FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS: CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS, AMB. HEDDA HAS LEARNED FROM TUNIS THAT LIBYAN SHIPS IN COMPANY WITH J.W. BATES ARE ONE SUBMARINE AND TWO SUPPORT SHIPS. IN EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHEN AND HOW READING AND BATES WAS OFFERED CONTRACT BY BUTTES TO USE J.W. BATES FOR DRILLING ELSEWHERE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, WE WERE ADVISED THAT THIS REPORT WAS IN ERROR. IN FACT, READING AND BATES HAD MADE OFFER OF DRILLING SERVICES TO BUTTES ON MARCH 23, BUT BUTTES HAD NOT TAKEN UP OFFER, AND IT WAS WITHDRAWN ABOUT MAY 1. DAILY FEE FOR SHIP PROPOSED BY READING AND BATES IN ITS OFFER TO BUTTES WAS DOLS 14,000

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(AS OPPOSED TO DOLS 25,000 WHICH FIRM IS REPORTEDLY BEING
PAID UNDER CURRENT CONTRACT). VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2528696
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TUNISIAN LIBYAN SHELF DISPUTE: GUIDANCE ON FUTURE U.S. ACTION
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, ENRG, PORG, TS, LY, IT, US, UNSC
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/57a3a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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